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## No. 3 Pirate Men's Tennis Upends Top-Ranked Sharks, 5-4, On Thursday

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No. 3 Pirate Men's Tennis Upends Top-Ranked Sharks, 5-4, On Thursday



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**SAVANNAH, Ga.** - The No. 3-ranked Armstrong State University men's tennis team defeated top-ranked and defending NCAA Division II national champion Hawai'i Pacific, 5-4, on Thursday afternoon at the Armstrong Tennis Complex.

The Pirates (10-1) picked up their seventh straight win with the victory over the Sharks, who fell to 5-3 on the year. It is the second straight win for Armstrong State over HPU as the Pirates picked up a 5-2 win last year in Pensacola, but the two teams did not meet in the NCAA Championships as the Sharks notched their first NCAA DII title. It's also the second straight time the Pirates have beaten the defending national champions in the regular season after ASU downed West Florida, 5-4, last year.

Both teams would play three incredibly tight doubles matches, with the Pirates prevailing in two of the three to take a 2-1 lead heading into singles play. The No. 14-ranked duo of **Luca Cerin** and **Ignacio Hernandez** held a 7-6 lead at No. 3 doubles, but the HPU duo of Juan Erro and Filip Soban would rally with three straight games to take the match, 9-7.

Armstrong State's No. 2 doubles duo of **Lorenzo Camilli** and **Bjorn Kurtze** would hold off Jack Lyttle and Torben Otto, 8-6, for a win, then the No. 5-ranked duo of **Alberto Caceres Casas** and **Jan Porteset** would give the Pirates the advantage after doubles with a 9-8 (5) win over Filip Dolozel and Jakub Hadrava at No. 1 doubles.

In singles, the Pirates would clinch the match by taking wins at the bottom three spots in the order. Alvaro Cruz Chomorro knocked off Lyttle, 6-3, 6-1, at No. 6 singles, then No. 22-ranked Hernandez downed Soban, 6-2, 6-4, at No. 4 singles. Porteset then clinched the match with a 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 win over Erro at No. 4 singles.

Hawai'i Pacific would pick up wins at the top three singles spots as No. 13-ranked Dolozel bested No. 28-ranked Cerin, 6-7 (3), 6-2, 6-3, at No. 1 singles and Hadrava downed Kurtze, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, at No. 3 singles. With the match decided, No. 34-ranked Otto and No. 4-ranked Caceres Casas played a third-set 10-point tiebreaker, with Otto prevailing, 6-7 (7), 6-3, (10-5).

Armstrong State returns to action on Friday, taking on No. 7 Barry University at 2:00 p.m. at the Armstrong Tennis Complex.



**ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY**

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ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY IS ONE OF THE PREMIER NCAA DIVISION II COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS IN THE NATION, FEATURING 13 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, 97 PEACH BELT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, 148 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS APPEARANCES AND 302 ALL-AMERICANS.

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